Kota-Chittor Railway Line

1826. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the original target date for completing Kota-Chittor Railway line in Rajasthan;

(b) what is the time by when the Kota-Chittor Railway line is likely to be completed; and

(c) what is the actual length of rail track so far completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No firm target was fixed for its completion.

(b) By March, 1989.

(c) 32 km. of track has been linked.

National Highways in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

1827. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the expenditure incurred on Jaipur-Jabalpur Highways in Rajasthan-Madhya Pradesh Sector during 1987-88;

(b) what is the time by when the work of the said National Highway is likely to be completed and the mileage of road on which the work is going on at present; and

(c) what are the new National Highways to be created?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) During 1987-88, a sum of Rs. 560 lakhs were allotted for the improvement works on National Highway No. 12 in the States of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) Improvement/development of National Highways, including National Highway No. 12 is a continuing process. These works are taken up annually depending upon the availability of resources, deficiencies in the National Highway System and traffic considerations. At present, work is going on in a length of about 194 kms and it is likely to be completed by 1990-91 depending upon the availabilty of funds.

(c) Due to financial constraints and other priority considerations, it is not possible at present to declare any new National Highway in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Devdasi system

1828. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 24th April, 1988 captioned "Devdasi system still alive";

(b) whether the Central Government propose to direct the Karnataka Government to take stringent action against the Devdasi system; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to bring any legislation to ban such system; and if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir. However, no specific incident has been mentioned.

(b) and (c) The States, where this practice still prevails have their own special laws, which prohibit de-